Fast Track Courts in Kerala

2720. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Fast Track Courts (FTC) functioning in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) whether it has been started in a phased manner requiring continuous sanction beyond April, 2005;

(c) the number of cases entrusted with each FTC at the time of starting and the percentage of cases disposed of so far; and

(d) whether Government have taken a decision to discontinue the functions of FTC and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) As per information available with the Department of Justice, on 31st December 2004, 31 Fast Track Courts have been established out of whcih 27 courts are functioning in Kerala. The locations of the 31 established courts are as follows:—

Two courts each at Thiruvanthapuram, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Thodupusha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Kalpetta, Thalassery & Kasaragod and three courts each at Kollam, Pathanamthitta & Manjeri.

(b) No, Sir. The terms of Fast Track Courts recommended by the Elventh Finance Commission was to expire on 31st March, 2005. However, the Supreme Court in its order dated 31st March, 2005, in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India extended the term of Fast Track Courts for a period of one month, upto April, 2005.

(c) As per information available with the Department of Justice, as on 31st December, 2004, the Fast Track Courts in Kerala have disposed of 22,247 cases out of 31,843 cases transferred to them. Information on individual fast track courts are not maintained in this department.

(d) Department of Justice has requested the 12th Finance Commission to recommend the continuation of existing Fast Track Courts and creation

of another 1500 new Fast Track Courts at the Magisterial Level. However, the 12th Finance Commission has not made any recommendations in this regard.

Deployment of Para-military Forces inside the Polling Booth

2721. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Election Commission has been asked by the apex Court to deploy paramilitary personnel and install cameras inside the booth;

(b) if so, whether election Commission had act accordingly in all the 3 States, Bihar, Haryana and Jharkhand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission of India has informed that in deference to the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the judgement delivered in Civil Appeal No. 9228 of 2003 (Janak singh *vs.* Ram Das Rai and Others) on 11.01.2005, the Commission directed that the videography of poll proceedings may be carried out inside the polling stations and that one of the Central Para Military Forces (CPMF) personnel be stationed at the entrance of these polling stations where CPMF is deployed, in such a manner that he can have an unrestricted view of the polling procedure in the polling stations. Considering the practical difficulties in covering all polling stations, it was decided that such videography may be done in only those polling stations where Observers consider necessary. The Commission further directed that while doing videography inside the polling station care should be taken to ensure that the same does not violate the secrecy of vote. These directions were implemented in the three States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Haryana.

(c) Does not arise.